of Pesticide Residues in these products was issued *vide* GSR 685(E) dated 26.8.2003 for inviting objections and suggestions. A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has also been set up to suggest criteria for evolving suitable safety standards for soft drinks. The PFA Rules, 1955 prohibit the Advertisement of any food, which is misleading or contravening the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder. Violations of the Rules is a punishable offence under the PFA Act, 1954.

Two child norm for contesting panchayat elections

1328. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has upheld a piece of legislation passed by the Haryana Legislative Assembly debarring persons having more than two living children from contesting panchayat elections in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether a similar legislation for the candidates seeking election as MLA/MP is under Government's consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some Writ Petitions (Civil) and appeals challenging the provisions of section 175(1) (q) and 177(1) of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 (Act No. 11 of 1994) debarring persons who have more than two children from becoming or continuing as Sarpanch or a Panch of a Gram Panchayat or member of Panchayat Samiti or Zila Parishad, were dismissed by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 30th July, 2003.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Constitution (79th Amendment) Bill pending in Parliament aims at disqualification of a person contesting for, or holding office as a member of either House of Parliament or State Legislature, if she/he has more than two children. This issue was also recently

discussed in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Parliament on 2nd May, 2003.

Loss making PSUs in Jharkhand

†1329. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of public sector undertakings in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of public sector undertakings are situated in Jharkhand and are running in losses for the last several years;

(c) if so, the names of such undertakings which are running in losses for the last two years and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to make such undertakings profitable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANG WAR): (a) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2001-02 which was laid in the Parliament on 3.3.2003 and is a published document, there were 240 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in the country as on 31.3.2002, till which period the information is available.

(b) and (c) Out of 9 CPSUs whose registered offices were situated in the State of Jharkhand as on 31.3.2002, till which period the information is available, 7 were loss making enterprises. Enterprise-wise details about names and losses are given in Appendix III and Statement 7B respectively of Vol. I of the Public Enterprises Survey 2001-02.

The reasons for losses are enterprise specific. However, some common reasons include old plants and machinery, outdated technology, surplus manpower, high interest burden, resource crunch, high input cost, lack of orders etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.